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Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

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PAGE 01 211519Z 0569 211519Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 INR-10 NEA-11 ARA-15 HA-05 /054 W
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O P 211458Z NOV 78
FM ICA/ROME
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO DOD WASHDC PRIORITY
WASHDC PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY
VOA MUNICH PRIORITY
TREASURY DEPARTMENT WASHDC
USCINCEUR/ECAP
USDOCOSOUTH
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL NAPLES
USNMR SHAPE
COMMANDER USASETAF/VICENZA/COMMANDING GENERAL
40TH TACGP AVIANO
6917TH SEGORU SAN VITO
2167 COMM GP/CG AVIANO
COMFAIRMED
COMSUBGRU 8
NAF SIGONELLA
NSA NAPLES
8TH SPT GROUP LIVORNO
NSO LA MADDALENA
COMSUBREFITRAGRU
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX SEVEN
CTF SIX ZERO
USOECD PARIS

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2

CURRENT REACTION ATTENTION USICA, EU, VOA, PGM/RG, PGM/F/FN/FW, PGM/PG; STATE/EUR/WE, STATE/IN, STATE/P.

USOECD PARIS ATTN. HOFFMAN

A. MESPLAY; RESULTS OF REGIONAL ELECTIONS IN THE TRENTINO-SOUTH TYROL AREA DOMINATE ALL MEDIA, WHICH ALMOST UNANIMOUSLY NOTE THAT GAINS SCORED BY LOCAL LISTS AND AOF RADICAL GROUPS AND LOSSES SUFFERED BY DC, PSI AND TO A LESSER DEGREE PCI ARE A WARNING TO THE NATIONAL PARTIES. PEOPLE'S TEMPLE MASS SUICIDE IN GUYANA COVERED PROMINENTLY, MAKES ALMOST ALL FRNTOPAGES. SEVERAL PAPERS DISCUSS US-USSR RELATIONS, REPORTING SECRETARY VANCE'S REPLY TO BREZHNEV'S STATEMENT ON FOREIGN INTEFERENCES IN IRAN, ANALYZING RELATIONS AND N BOMB ISSUE. LATTER DISCUSSED BY INDRO MONTANELLI IN IL GIORNALE LEAD EDITORIAL.

SECT MASS SUICIDE IN GUYANA

COVERAGE PROMINENT, WITH MANY FRONTPAGE STORIS OR HEADLINES.

1. PIER MARIA PASINETTI FROM LOS ANGELES IN CORRIERE DELLA SERA FRONTPAGE: "JONES SEEMS TOBE THE GROTESQUE AND CRIMINAL CARICATURE OF THOSE PSEUDE-RELIGIOUS LEADERS... ONCEDEPICTED BY SINCLAIR LEVIS IN ELMER GANTRY. FOR YEARS THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ELECTRONIC MEDIA HAS MULTIPLIED THIS TYPE, JONES HAS TWO CHARACTERISTICS: FANATIC DISCIPLINE..." AND HIS RELATIONS WITH CERTAIN MANIPULATORS OF MILITANT POLITICS. HIS RELATIONS WITH THE BLACKS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN STRATEGIC AND MANIPULATIVE, QUITE DIFFERENCT... FROM THOSE OF HIS MOST DISTINGUISHED VICTIM, LEO RYAN."

2. ENNIO CARETTO IN LA STAMPA FROM NEW YORK: "PRESIDENT CARTER, SHAKEN BY THIS INHUMAN EPISODE, HAS ASKED TO BE KEPT INFORMED OF THE DEVELOPMENTS. THERE ARE ALREADY VIOLENT POLEMICS ON THE SECT, ON POLICE ACTION TOWARDS IT, ON THE TRUE OR ALLEGED GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES, ON THE ALINATION OF THE AMERICAN MINORITIES."

3. MARINO DE MEDICI IN IL TEMPO FROM WASHINGTON: "ABOUT NINETY PER CENT OF THE CONGREGATION WAS COLORED, THE REST WAS WHITE, PEOPLE WITHOUT ASPIRATIONS OR HOMES. BLACKS AND WHITES WERE MOTIVATED BY A BATTLE AGAINST AN OUTSIDE OPPRESSOR, WHICH WAS RECENTLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE FEDERAL ORGANIZATIONS."

4. JOHN CAPPELLI IN PAESE SERA FROM NEW YORK QUOTES MRS. JONES AS SAYING THAT HER HUSBAND WAS AN IDEALIST. "ACCORDING TO MRS. JONES HE WANTED TO GIVE THE SECT....A MARXIST SUBSTANCE." CAPPELLI ALSO OUTLINES RYAN'S CAREER, NOTING THAT HE HAD WORKED IN BLACK GHETTOES, IN PENITENTIARIES... AND IN 1978 HAD INTERVIEWED YASSIR ARAFAT.

5. ARMINIO SAVIOLI IN L'UNITA' ("AN ABSURD ESCAPE FROM 'CIVILIZATION'"). "THIS IS CLEARLY A TERRIBLE, MACROSCOPIS EPISODE OF A BROADER CRISIS. . .IT IS NOT DIFFICULT OT IMAGINE THAT JONES' FOLLOWERS WERE ESCAPING FROM A SOCIETY WHICH IS FREER AND MORE PERMISSIVE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME MORE CONFORMISTIC, MORE SUPERFICIAL, AND TYRANNICAL. THEY WERE LOOKING FOR EQUALITY, FRATERNITY, LOVE. BEFORE THERE WERE THE HIPPIES, NOW THER ARE INNUMERABLE SECTOS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES.. . . THEY ARE NOT ONLY FAOS OR FRAUDS. . . . THEY EXIST BECAUSE THEY SEEM TO SATISFY A THIRST FOR VALUES THAT CONSUMER SOCIETIES NOT ONLY DO NOT SATISFY, BUT IGNORE AND LAUGH AT. THE LAYMAN, THE DEMOCRAT, THE COMMUNIST KNOWS THAT THE BEST WAY OUT IS NOT AN ESCAPE INTO MYSTICISM AND TRANSCENDENTALISM. HE KNOWS THAT IN THE DEADLY AND BLOODY END OF THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE THERE IS A SEVERE WARNING. . . . TO THOSE WHO ADVANCE OTHER PROPOSAL FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE CRISIS. . . GUYANA IS FAR AWAY. CALIFORNIA IS CLOSER, POLITICALLY AND CULTURALLY. AND YET WE FEEL THAT THIS MASS SUICIDE CONCERNS US TOO, THE INHABITANTS OF THIS GREAT VILLAGE, THE WORLD."

(MORE)

EOT

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____
RDS☐or XDS☐ EXEMPTION(S) _____
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FOIA/PA EXEMPTION(S) ☑
CIA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

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